Thefts of ancient artifacts from Patna Museum

1511. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the reported cases of theft of ancient artifacts during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have investigated the recent theft of artifacts from Patna Museum;

(c) what has been the outcome of the investigation;

(d) whether the investigation has been able to ascertain the omissions and commissions on the part of museum staff; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to contain the trend of theft of ancient artifacts?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The details of the reported cases of theft of ancient artifacts during the last three years reported to the Ministry of Culture are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Bihar has intimated that the theft case in Patna Museum was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation on 27th September, 2006. In this connection three persons have been arrested and 17 idols, out of 18 stolen idols, have been recovered. The State Government has further intimated that there is no such evidence of omissions and commissions on the part of Museum staff so far.

(e) Security arrangement of Museums under the administrative control of Government. of India are being constantly upgraded and strengthened.

Statement

Details of theft cases of artifacts reported to the Ministry of Culture during the last three years

Sl. No.	Site of Theft	State	Description of the objects	Date of theft	Action taken	Status of the case
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I. Monuments/Sites under the Archaeological Survey of India						
1.	Charkhamba Temple premises at ruined Krishna Vilas	Rajasthan	2 Sculptures	21.04.2004	F.I.R. lodged	
2.	Bumzuva Cave, Anantnag Distt.	J&K	Shiv Linga of stone	23/24.05.2004	F.I.R. lodged	Recovered
3.	Sun Temple Modhera, Distt. Mehsana	Gujarat	2 Fragment Sculptures	04.08.2004	F.I.R. lodged	
4.	Alathur, Taluk Kulathur, Distt. Pudakkottai	Tamil Nadu	Jaina Image	06.08.2004	F.I.R. lodged	Recovered
5.	Linji Fort, Distt. Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	2 Sculptures	21.08.2004	F.I.R. lodged	Culprit caught
6.	Ruins of buried Jaina Temple, Denavulapadu Village	Andhra Pradesh	Bust of Jaina Tirthankara	8/9.09.2004	F.I.R. lodged	
7.	Ancient site Nagar, Distt. Tonk	Rajasthan	7 Sculpture	12.01.2005	F.I.R. lodged	
8.	Sculpture Shed, Karitalai, Kanti	Madhya Pradesh	9 Sandstone sculpture	17.08.2005	F.I.R. lodged	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Temple premises of the Chandpur Fort, Chamoli	Uttaranchal	1 Carved wooden head of Kali	18/19.04. 2006	F.I.R. lodged	
10.	Archaeological Museum, Kalibagan, Hanumangarh	Rajasthan	Wheel and cart frame	21.01.2006	F.I.R. lodged	
11.	Cave temple at Patal Bhubneswar Tehsil, Berinag Distt. Pithoragarh	Uttaranchal	Small size stone images of Ganesha (under worship)	2/3.04.06	F.I.R. lodged	
12.	Shiv Kodandarama SwamyTemple, Vomtimitta, Distt. Kadapa	Andhra Pradesh	Theft of central bud portion of the inverted lotus carved on the kalyanamand apa ceilling	06.10.2006	F.I.R. lodged	
13.	Dudhai Monument, Distt. Lalitpur	Madhya Pradesh	Stone sculpture of a male figure (Varah)	05.02.2007	F.I.R. lodged	
II. Indian Museum, Kalkata—an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture						
14.	Indian Museum, Kalkata	West Bengal	A Stone Head of Lord Buddha	29.12.2004	Case handed over to the CBI	
III. Museums under the State Government						
15.	Patna Museum	Bihar	18 Bronze Idols	27.09.2006	FIR lodged and the case handed over to the CBI	In so far 17 idols have been recovered